

# The Primary Source

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# The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists

Volume 1

July, 1979

Number 2

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society of Mississippi Archivists has been highly successful in its first year. The new organization experienced phenomenal growth in membership. The first issue of The Primary Source appeared and current plans call for making it a regular publication of the Society. The annual meeting held at the University of Southern Mississippi was the highlight of the year. Those conducting the sessions provided useful information on various aspects of archival work. Dr. John Niven, the guest speaker, offered amusing and thought-provoking comments on the historian's utilization of archives. We deeply appreciate the courtesies and kindness extended to us by the University of Southern Mississippi in hosting the meeting. We are especially grateful to U.S.M. President Aubrey Lucas and to Society President Claude Fike for their hospitality. The officers, members of the executive board, and committee members also deserve special commendation for dedicated and outstanding service during the past year.

I believe the Society will enjoy continued success in its second year. The growth of the Society is indicative of the interest in archival and manuscript resources. Hopefully, workshops and projects can be conducted during the year to translate this

interest into an even greater archival effort. Please inform me of your archival needs and interests which may assist us in planning our activities. The Society welcomes your suggestions and participation.

It is an honor to serve as your president and I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Sammy Cranford

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When the Society of Mississippi Archivists was established on November 17, 1977, it was the hope of the organizers that the Society might provide for improved communication among those working in the archival profession in Mississippi. During the year and a half since that organizational meeting, the SMA has proved to be a valuable avenue for cooperation among archivists, manuscript curators, and librarians. The program of the Society is not yet fully developed, but it has already been of service to the profession.

A large majority of the 1978-1979 membership is made up of persons not working in the archival profession but interested in preserving the recorded history of Mississippi's organizations and



people. This fact is indicative of the wide-spread support for the archival profession in the state. Students, scholars, and genealogists have much to gain from improvements in the administration of archival and manuscript collections at the various depositories in Mississippi.

The membership of the Society has surpassed all expectations and now numbers 449 from 116 Mississippi towns and ten out-of-state municipalities. A membership directory for 1978-1979 is presently being prepared and should be ready for distribution in August.

Society members who attended the annual meeting at the University of Southern Mississippi in April enjoyed excellent presentations by Louisa Bowen on arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections, and Susan Haltom on the exhibition of documentary materials. Dr. John Niven from the Claremont Graduate School proved to be a stimulating luncheon speaker as he reflected on aspects of modern historiography. The afternoon business meeting saw the election of Sammy Cranford of Delta State University as president; Jo Cille Hafter of Greenville as vice president; and Anne Wells of Mississippi State University as treasurer. Miss Wells did an outstanding job as last year's treasurer and was rewarded with re-election to the post.

Special recognition goes to Claude Fike, immediate past president of the Society and director of the McCain Graduate Library at USM. Dr. Fike displayed imaginative and able leadership as he led the Society through an exciting initial year. His shoes will be difficult to fill.

We look forward to the Society growing and expanding its programs during 1979-1980. The leadership of the Society is presently working on the creation of a workshop program to supplement the activities of the annual meeting. Other publications are being planned and it is my sincere hope that the Society may be an organization which serves the needs of its membership and supports the best interests of the archival profession in Mississippi.

Ronald E. Tomlin

#### NEWS NOTES

##### Catholic Diocese of Jackson :

Sister Catherine Markey, M.H.S., archivist for the Diocese of Jackson, will be leaving Mississippi in September to assume a new post as archivist for the Diocese of Little Rock. We will miss Sister Catherine and wish her success in her new assignment. Replacing Sister Catherine at the Jackson Diocese will be Frances Boeckman, who will serve on a part-time basis.

During the last several months, the Diocese of Jackson has donated a number of 18th Century land surveys done by William Vousdan and William Dunbar to the Department of Archives and History. Back issues of The Mississippi Register were also made available to the State Archives for microfilming.

##### Jackson State University :

Recent acquisitions at Jackson State University include the Jacob L. Reddix Papers, 1953-1967, consisting of letters, speeches, and photographs



In addition, the manuscript of A Voice Crying in the Wilderness, by Mr. Reddix, was added to the special collections at JSU. Tape recordings produced by Margaret Walker Alexander; manuscripts and galleys of William Ferris's Mississippi Black Folklore: A Research Bibliography and Discography; and speeches of Emmett C. Burns were also among acquisitions at the Jackson State University Archives.

#### Mississippi Department of Archives and History :

Robert J. Bailey, a Board member of the Society, has been appointed director of the Department's Division of Historic Preservation. Bob leaves the position of director of the Archives and Library Division. Replacing Bob as director of the Archives and Library Division will be Madel Morgan, currently with the Mississippi Library Commission and 1979 president of the Mississippi Library Association. Mrs. Morgan will assume her duties on August 15.

At its February meeting, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission approved a grant totaling \$30,932 for a survey of records at selected executive agencies of state government. The twelve month survey (July 1, 1979 - June 30, 1980) will collect data which should illustrate the need for records management in Mississippi. Ronald E. Tomlin, chief of the Archives Section, is project director.

Major archival acquisitions at the Department include the files of the Mississippi State Sanatorium, ca. 1917-1965 (265 cubic feet); Game and Fish Commission records of a WPA wildlife survey, ca. 1936-1942 (110 cubic

feet); and the record of corporations, 1964-1978, and governor's house and senate journals, 1964-1975, from the administrations of Governors Hugh White, Paul B. Johnson, Jr., John Bell Williams, William L. Waller, and Cliff Finch.

Significant private manuscript acquisitions include an addition to the Eudora Welty Collection, 1978 (2 cubic feet); George Owen Papers, 1930-1970 (3.3 cubic feet); Isham R. Howze Diaries, 1830-1857 (5 vols.); and the Emma Balfour Collection, 1781-1925 (15 items). Included in the Balfour Collection is the original of the Emma Balfour diary of the siege of Vicksburg.

An important addition to the special collections of the Department was the architectural records of John Montgomery and Raymond Birchett, ca. 1930-1973 (186 cubic feet).

During the aftermath of the tragic Easter flood which ravaged Jackson, the Department of Archives and History answered numerous requests from businesses and individuals on proper methods for salvaging water-damaged records.

#### Mississippi State University :

J.G. Shoalmire, Curator of the John C. Stennis Collection at the Mitchell Memorial Library, contributed to the publication of the proceedings of the Conference on the Research Use and Disposition of Senators' Papers, September 14-15, 1978, in Washington.

Acquisitions of the Special Collections Department include the C.F. Mayerhoff Collection, 1948-1950; tapes, clippings, and correspondence deal-



ing with the Dixiecrats (National States Rights Party) (1 linear foot); and the Hodding and Betty W. Carter Papers, 1901-1975, consisting of correspondence of the editor of the Greenville Delta-Democrat Times, personal papers, literature, manuscripts, publications, articles, books, Carter's Pulitzer Prize for 1946, speeches, and his writings (80 linear feet).

On February 3, 1979, the Carter Papers were officially presented to Mississippi State University by Mrs. Hodding Carter, Hodding Carter, III, and Philip Carter, at a reception and symposium entitled "The Heritage of Hodding Carter." Approximately 200 students, journalists, educators, and other interested persons attended the symposium and participants included: Mrs. Hodding Carter, publisher of the Delta-Democrat Times; Hodding Carter, III, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs of the U.S. Department of State; Philip Carter, editor of the Delta-Democrat Times; Hugh B. Patterson, Jr., publisher of the Arkansas Gazette; Henry Ashmore, former editor of the Arkansas Gazette; John Popham, retired editor of the Chattanooga Times; and Wilson F. Minor, editor of the Jackson Capitol Reporter.

#### Society of American Archivists :

Participants in the SAA's 43rd annual meeting in Chicago, September 25-28, will structure valuable educational experiences particularly suited to their own special interests. Workshops, seminars, panel discussions, demonstrations, and tours are scheduled. Over fifty sessions are planned, considering such topics as archival management, architectural archives, finding aids programs for small repositories, conservation, genealogy, local

history, urban history, and quantitative history.

Lighter moments will include an opening reception at Chicago's Cultural Center, the Presidential/Awards Banquet, a special performance by Second City, Chicago's famed improvisational troupe, and a closing luncheon.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the historic Palmer House. Those interested in attending should request an annual meeting program packet from SAA headquarters, 330 S. Wells St., Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.

#### University of Mississippi :

The Department of Archives and Special Collections announces the appointment of Deborah Thiel as graphics artist and exhibit coordinator.

At its June meeting, the NHPRC awarded the University of Mississippi a grant of \$11,210 to arrange and describe lumber archives relating to the lumber industry in Mississippi, 1829-1944.

Acquisitions include the Gage Family Letters, 1830-1908, which include the letters of Jeremiah S. Gage, 11th Mississippi Infantry, killed at the Battle of Gettysburg (70 items); a collection of papers relating to extremist political groups, notably the Ku Klux Klan (6 linear feet); a collection of the papers of poet Charles Ghigna (9 items); and a contemporary character sketch of Aaron Burr written by George Adams, an observer at the 1807 Burr trial at Washington, MS.

"The University of Mississippi: The Formative Years, 1848-1906," a retrospective exhibition of photographs and ephemera, will be open to the



public throughout the summer. The exhibition catalog in which are reproduced rare antebellum photos from the exhibition is available in the Department of Archives and Special Collections and may be ordered through the mail at \$6 per copy.

#### University of Southern Mississippi :

A recent staff addition at the McCain Graduate Library is John Kelly as assistant curator of special collections. John's primary responsibility is the deGrummond Collection.

Heber Ladner, Secretary of State, has begun donating his personal papers to the University. Approximately fifty cubic feet of papers have been received thus far. Other acquisitions include an accretion of photos and memorabilia to the William M. Colmer Papers (26 cubic feet); the Neil R. McMillen Papers (1½ cubic feet); and Chevron Oil Company photos (16 cubic feet).

Manuscripts, galleys and art work for childrens books by the following authors have been received as additions to the deGrummond Collection: Clifford L. Alderman, Helen L. Kaufmann, Jane and Paul Annixter. Betty Cavanaugh, Margaret Goff Clark, Daniel Cohen, Charles I. Coombs, Barbara Corcoran, Ray Cruz, Richard Cummings, George Fichter, Leonard Everett Fisher, Roy A. Gallant, Shirley Glubok and Alfred Tamarin, Pearl Harwood, Syd Hoff, Berta and Elmer Hader, Donald E. Lawson, Daniel P. Mannix, Mickey K. Marks, Patricia Miles Martin, Gloria D. Miklowitz, Robert Quackenbush, and Mircea Vasiliu.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

For this issue of The Primary Source, publications listed in this section will concentrate on a specific subject area. It is hoped that this may become a precedent carried on in future issues. The subject area chosen for this issue is archival security. In recent years there has been much discussion of the need to improve the security consciousness of archival and manuscript depositories. Original source materials housed in these institutions are irreplaceable and must be preserved for future generations. The Society of American Archivists has taken the lead in pointing out the problems in the area of security experienced by all depositories. The SAA's Archival Security Program has been of much assistance to archives and libraries alike.

Adams, Randolph G. "The Character and Extent of Fugitive Archival Materials," American Archivist 2 (April, 1939).

Bahmer, Robert H. "The Case of the Clark Papers," American Archivist 19 (January, 1956).

Benjamin, Mary A. "Thefts and Archives," The Collector 843 (1975).

Berkeley, Edmund, Jr. "Archival Security: A Personal and Circumstantial View," Georgia Archive 4 (Spring, 1976).

Berkeley, Edmund, Jr. "Archivists and Thieves," Manuscripts 28 (Summer, 1976).

Boyd, Julian P. "These Precious Moments ... Our History," American Archivist 22 (April, 1959).

Hamilton, Charles. "The Case of the Purloined Letters," Collecting Autographs and Manuscripts (Norman:1955).



Hamilton, Charles. Scribblers and Scoundrels (New York:1968).

Haugh, George C. "Reader Policies in Rare Book Libraries," Library Trends 5 (April, 1957).

Keck, Caroline, et al. A Primer on Museum Security (Cooperstown, NY: 1966).

Kinney, John M. "Archival Security and Insecurity," American Archivist 38 (October, 1975).

Land, Robert H. "Defense of Archives Against Human Foes," American Archivist 19 (April, 1956).

"Larceny - Documents and Records," Corpus Juris Secundum, edited by F. J. Ludes and H.J. Gilbert (St. Paul, MN:1968) vol. 52A, pp. 415-420.

Mason, Philip P. "Archival Security: New Solutions to an Old Problem," American Archivist 38 (October, 1975).

O'Neill James W. "Strengthen Your Security Posture," Library Security Newsletter 1 (March, 1975).

Peckham, Howard H. "Policies Regarding the Use of Manuscripts," Library Trends 5 (January, 1957).

Preston, Jean. "Problems in the Use of Manuscripts," American Archivist 28 (July, 1965).

Rhoads, James B. "Alienation and Thievery: Archival Problems," American Archivist 29 (April, 1966).

Rhoads, James B. "Harris, Lewis and the Hollow Tree," American Archivist 25 (July, 1962).

Scobey, Alfreda. "On Booknapping and Other Heahaches," Georgia Archive 4 (Winter, 1976).

Smith, Russell M. "Stamping Manuscripts," Manuscripts 14 (Spring, 1962).

Thompson, Lawrence S. "New Reflections on Bibliokleptomania," Library Security Newsletter 1 (January, 1975).

Walch, Timothy. Archives and Manuscripts: Security. SAA Basic Manual Series (Chicago: 1977).

White, B. Kirke. "Security of Archives and Manuscript Collections," Virginia Phoenix 6 (1973).

## EVENTS

June 17-21 :  
American Association for State and Local History Seminar on the Recruitment and Involvement of Membership in the Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.

June 18 - July 20 :  
University of Denver 18th Annual Institute for Archival Studies, Department of History, 424 MRB, University of Denver, Denver, CO 80210.

June 24-30 :  
American Library Association Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas.

June 29 - July 3 :  
Bergamo Center's 5th Annual Religious Archives Workshop. For further information contact Reverend Norbert Brockman, Bergamo Center, 4435 E. Patterson Road, Dayton, Ohio 45430.



- July 13 - August 17 :  
Thirteenth Annual Archives Institute,  
Georgia State Department of Archives  
and History, Atlanta, GA.
- July 15-20 :  
American Association for State and  
Local History Seminar on Current  
Trends in Interpreting History,  
Nashville, TN.
- July 15-27 :  
Ninth Annual Institute for Historical  
Editing, Madison, Wisconsin,  
sponsored by the NHPRC, the Uni-  
versity of Wisconsin, Madison,  
and the State Historical Society  
of Wisconsin.
- August 12-17 :  
AASLH Seminar on Publications,  
Nashville, TN. For further infor-  
mation, contact the AASLH, 1400  
Eighth Ave., South, Nashville, TN  
37203.
- August 13-17 :  
Tennessee Archivists Basic Work-  
shop, Nashville. Contact Marice  
Wolfe, Joint University Libraries,  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville,  
TN 37203.
- August 20-22 :  
International Conference on Com-  
puters and the Humanities, Han-  
over, NH.
- September 17-19 :  
The Annual Government Microgra-  
phics Conference and Exposition,  
Shoreham Americana Hotel, Wash-  
ington, D.C. For more informa-  
tion, contact National Trade Pro-  
ductions, Inc. 9301 Annapolis Road,  
Suite 301, Lanham, MD 20801.
- September 17-24 :  
SAA 1979 Archival Study Tour: West-  
ern Canada. Contact J. Frank Cook,  
University Archives, 443F Memori-  
al Library, University of Wisconsin,  
Madison, Madison, WI 53706.
- September 18-21 :  
American Association for State and  
Local History Annual Convention,  
Tucson, Arizona.
- September 25-28 :  
Society of American Archivists  
Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- September 30 - October 12 :  
AASLH Eastern Area Seminar on the  
Interpretation of History by Histori-  
cal Societies and Museums, hosted  
by the North Carolina Division of  
Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.  
Contact AASLH Seminar, 1400 Eighth  
Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37203.
- October 3-7 :  
National Trust for Historic Preser-  
vation, San Francisco, CA.
- October 7-10 :  
Association for Records Managers  
and Administrators Annual Confer-  
ence, Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, AR.
- October 10-12 :  
Mississippi Library Association  
Annual Convention, Jackson.
- October 10-12 :  
Southeastern Workshop on the Pre-  
servation and Conservation of Libra-  
ry Materials, sponsored by the Col-  
lege of Charleston. Workshop to  
be conducted by George M. Cunha,  
Director Emeritus of the New Eng-  
land Document Conservation Cen-  
ter. For further information con-  
tact Ralph Meluich, Archivist, Robert  
Scott Small Library, College of



Charleston, Charleston, SC 29401.

October 15-18 :

Sixth International Information Management Exposition and Conference, New York Coliseum. For further information, contact Leo Bowrer, Clapp and Poliak, Inc., 245 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

October 16-18 :

National Archives and Records Service Modern Archives Institute Advanced Course: Problems of Access and Appraisal in Case Files. For further information and application forms, write Modern Archives Institute (ND), NARS, Washington, D.C. 20408.

October 17-20 :

Western History Association, San Diego, CA.

October 25-28 :

Oral History Association Annual Meeting, East Lansing, MI.

November 5-9 :

Business Archives: The Basics and Beyond. SAA workshop, San Francisco, CA. For further information, contact the SAA headquarters, 330 S. Wells St., Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.

November 6-9 :

"Going to the Source: An Introduction to Research in Archives," NARS's four day course in the use of primary sources. To register, write Elsie Freivogal, Education Division, NARS, Washington, D.C. 20408.

November 12-16 :

"Managing An Organization's Records: The Emerging Profession,"

the 5th American University Institute on Records Management, San Francisco, sponsored by the Center for Technology and Administration, College of Public Affairs, The American University, in cooperation with NARS. For further information contact Mr. Alexander Soroko at the American University, (202) 686-2391.

November 14-17 :

Southern Historical Association, Washington, D.C.

November 15-19 :

White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, Washington Hilton.

December 28-30 :

American Historical Association, New York, NY.

#### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY, 1979-1980

President: Sammy O. Cranford, Assistant Professor of History & University Archivist, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS.

Vice President: Jo Cille Hafter, Board member of Percy Memorial Library, Greenville, MS.

Treasurer: Anne S. Wells, Manuscript Librarian, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.

#### Board Members:

Robert J. Bailey (1978-1980), Director, Division of Historic Preservation, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Bernice Bell (1978-1981), Assistant Librarian, H.T. Sampson Library,



Jackson State University, Jackson, MS.

Julia Guice (1978-1981), Historic Preservation Officer, City of Biloxi, MS.

J.G. Shoalmire (1978-1980), Associate Professor of History and Curator of the John C. Stennis Collection, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.

Executive Director/Secretary:  
Ronald E. Tomlin, Chief, Archives Section, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

## ARCHIVAL GLOSSARY

A Curator - more correct; less in error.

Accession - meeting for business or other purposes.

Accession Number - a condition or person that quiets or causes a dull meeting.

Brochure - an involuntary nasal-oral expulsion usually accompanying asthma or hay fever. A proper response is gesundheit.

Budget - a diminutive mechanism for moving heavy objects.

Card File - device for honing and whetting already sharp characters.

Catalog - sporting event with felines. Similar to coon-on-a-log.

Chief Curator's Office - (orifice) a small hole in the curator's head.

Constant Relative Humidity - innocuous, long-staying kinfolks.

Director - probably from some root word such as dire, meaning still under discussion.

Donor - expression of unfamiliarity or unacquaintance with a woman. Example - "I donor."

Exhibit - imprecation or expression of disgust, epithet.

Find - general expression of overall euphoria.

Furring - alien; not native. Such as "small furring car."

Genealogical - thoughtful or orderly conviviality.

Historical - irrational; emotionally frenetic.

Lamination - outbreak of violence.

Librarian - pastoral or rural libertine.

Loan - single; unaccompanied.

Preserve - to quiet or restrain.

Research - a reoccurrence of extreme body dehydration.

Search - a physical symptom of extreme body dehydration. Example - suffering from search or being searchy.